

THE SMALL QUEEN NEWSLETTER  
OF THE CANADIAN SMALL QUEEN STUDY GROUP (BNAPS)

Volume 4 No. 1

March 1979.



1. 1979 Dues - Last Call !!!

Please Remember, One Article for this Newsletter will pay your 1979 Dues! If unable to submit an article dues will remain at \$3.00.

The more articles submitted, the more newsletters we can send out. The editor anxiously waits to be flooded with mail.

2. Newsletter Summary

"Location of the Montreal and Ottawa Printings of the Small Queen Issue"- By J. Edward Nixon.

3. Newsletter Volume No. 4

First Report on the 3¢ Small Queen, thick paper issue 1870. Perforation should have read 12.00 x 12.00.

4. The Treasurer's Report for 1978.

Balance 12/31/77		46.35
Income		
Dues paid in 1978		73.79
Donations in 1978		10.00
Interest on Savings Account - 1978		<u>2.50</u>
		<u>132.64</u>
Expenses - 1978		
Postage - Four Newsletters -	22.70	49.54
Newsletter -	26.84	
Balance 12/31/78		<u>83.10</u>

5. Guide Dots

Results on our Survey of Guide Dots over the past two years will appear in one of this year's Newsletters.

6. Want Lists are Welcomed!

Don't forget to send in your want lists pertaining to Small Queens. They will be advertised Free of Charge.

LOCATION OF THE MONTREAL AND OTTAWA PRINTINGS OF THE SMALL QUEEN ISSUE

A discussion of the location of printings should commence with a little background.

It is now generally accepted that the earliest printings of the Small Queen Issue were printed in Ottawa by the British American Bank Note Company.

Then some time in the first half of the 1870's decade the bank note company moved all its operations to Montreal where they remained until the later years of the 1880's when the company returned again to Ottawa.

The precise dates of the moves from Ottawa to Montreal and back to Ottawa have long been a matter of speculation. I have seen dates ranging from 1871 to 1875 for the first move and from 1887 to 1889 for the second move. Since the locations of the printings are used to identify major catalogue listings, it would seem desirable to pinpoint the dates.

Let's examine the situation of the earliest Small Queen Printings. We know the contract signed with the government in 1866 specified that printing was to be done in Ottawa.

There has always been the tendency to think the move to Montreal took place at the time of the 1873 changes in paper, gum and perforation. It is certain that the 11½ x 12 perforating was done in Montreal.

We know that printing plates for stamps as well as various types of bank notes were produced after 1871 bearing an imprint with the words "British American Bank Note Co. Montreal and Ottawa." (Boggs Type III & IV)

I have seen bank notes dated June 1873 bearing this "Montreal and Ottawa" imprint (Boggs Type III). I have also seen bank notes dated January 1874 bearing the imprint "British American Bank Note Co. Montreal" (Boggs Type V). This might suggest the bank note

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company ceased operations in Ottawa between June 1873 and January 1874.

It has been suggested the printing of stamps was done simultaneously in Montreal and Ottawa during the early 1870's. Certainly this could not have been true for all values of the Small Queens. There was only <sup>one</sup> plate of the 2 cent and 6 cent at this time. Also, if printing had been done in both locations simultaneously on the same values, I think we would see separate and distinct shades existing at the same time. Actually it doesn't make much sense to print the same value in two locations. Further I see no reason to print some values in one city and others in another city.

All this might suggest the relocation to Montreal took place in mid-1873. However I believe we can now show it took place in 1871.

The first <sup>clue</sup> ~~clue~~ is contained in an attractive book produced some 20 odd years ago by the British American Bank Note Co. on its 90th anniversary. It contains the quotation -- "In 1871 the plant was transferred from Ottawa to Montreal".

An examination of the Post Office Department's Letter Books revealed that correspondence by the Deputy Postmaster General to the bank note company was addressed to Ottawa until October 1871 when suddenly without explanation letters henceforth were addressed to Montreal. The letters from the D.P.G. for the most part consist of orders for postage stamps.

At this point it would be easy to conclude that the printing operation of postage stamps was transferred to Montreal in fall 1871 and the bank note company simply retained an office in Ottawa thereafter until late in 1873. This would explain the continued recognition of both Ottawa and Montreal in the imprint styles. On the other hand, perhaps Smillie and Burland, the executives of the bank note company, simply moved to Montreal in 1871 and printing continued to be done in Ottawa.

However I think the final word is contained in the minutes of Directors Meetings of the British American Bank Note Co. The meeting of March 23, 1870 states a motion:

"That it is desirable in view of the necessity to erect new and expensive premises in Ottawa to repair the damage by late fire, that the offices of the Company be removed to Montreal, and that W. Lowe be authorized to open a negotiation with the Government to obtain their consent to the removal under the contract the Company now has with them."

This is followed by a September 6, 1870 Special Meeting where

"W. Burland reported with reference to the Building in Montreal was the City and District Savings Bank for the use of the Company, that he had made an offer for the period of five or ten years, at a rental of \$2,000 per annum. It was resolved that Burland's offer be approved."

and then by a note at the October 3 meeting authorized by the Vice-President and General Manager to sign the lease for this building.

At the February 14, 1871 meeting it was noted the lease had been signed for 5 to 10 years at \$2,000 per annum.

I have not found correspondence specifically talking about the actual move of the printing plant so, beyond the above evidence I am surmising the relocation took place in October 1871. Also I think it quite conceivable a sales office was maintained in Ottawa for a few years after 1871.

This means that of all the Small Queens only the 1 cent and 3 cent were printed in Ottawa prior to 1889.

Throughout the period from 1871 to 1888 the B.A.B.N. Co. leased space in Montreal. They acquired land at one point to erect their own building but did not proceed and resold the land a few years later.

Now let's turn to the move from Montreal back to Ottawa in the late 1880's.

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The renewal of their Government contract in October 1886 again specified that work should be done in Ottawa. They had purchased a lot in Ottawa in 1880 so the company now prepared to construct their own building.

At the September 6, 1887 Directors' meeting it was reported that a new building in Ottawa was in the stage of erection and would be completed, ready for occupancy for May 1, 1888.

All this agrees with the usual consensus that describes the Second Ottawa Printings as being from 1888 onward. In fact there are definite changes in paper and gum as well as minor perforation and some colour changes at this time.

However the move did not take place in 1888 at all but was delayed until 1889.

At the September 4, 1888 Directors' meeting it was noted that the Ottawa building had collapsed because of imperfect construction. At this time the bank note company apparently had been forced to leave their old premises because the Printing and Stamp Divisions now were to be located on the 4th floor of the Gazette Building, the office at Mechanics Hall Building and the Vault at the Standard Building.

This is interesting for collectors of the carmine and scarlet shades of the 3 cent postage and 2 cent registration stamps. They were printed in the Gazette Building in Montreal and not in Ottawa.

The November 27, 1888 meeting records that the building in Ottawa should be ready by February 1, 1889 and on March 23, 1889 it was reported as completed at a cost to date of \$48,000.

In the Post Office Letterbooks the following letter exists dated April 25, 1889. -

To: Jeffrey H. Burland, Secretary, B.A.B.N. Co., Montreal

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"Referring to your communication of the 20th inst. I beg to inform you that the P.G. is desirous of knowing the extent of "Reserve Stock" of Postage Stamps which you propose to forward to this Department to be stored previous to the removal of your establishment to Ottawa"

Signed - White

Deputy Postmaster General

A letter dated May 4, was also sent to Montreal, then the next letter was an order for stamps dated May 29, 1889 and it was sent to G. B. Burland in Ottawa.

The Postmaster General's report for the year ended June 30, 1889 refers briefly to the move having been completed.

These facts all soundly support the conclusion that the move was made in May 1889. However, this is by far the latest date I have seen suggested for this move.

I think the past confusion results from several other facts.

As mentioned earlier the renewal of contract in 1887 and changes in printing characteristics in 1888 suggest an 1888 move.

Also, it is generally felt that printing plates bearing the imprint "British American Bank Note Co., Ottawa" (Boggs Type VI) first appeared in 1888. In fact, I have an imprint piece from this plate which definitely has all characteristics of 1888 printings.

Probably the explanation here is simply that the transfer of operations was planned in late 1887, thus new plates anticipated this in the imprint style. These new 2 cent and 5 cent plates were used briefly in Montreal before the 1889 move.

The 1888 change in shade, paper and gum had nothing to do with the location of printing. Rather in response to frequent complaints about the quality of printing, in particular the lack of sufficient gum, I think the printers were simply trying to improve their effort. Judging by two letters sent to them by the Post Office

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in late 1888 they failed. The printing was so bad the Government threatened to cancel the contract.

In summary, as far as catalogue listings are concerned, the location of printing, namely Ottawa vs. Montreal, is probably a "red-herring" in the whole issue. Really it is the characteristics or quality of printings which distinguish one period from another. We have seen how changes in these do not necessarily coincide with transfers of printing locations.